

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

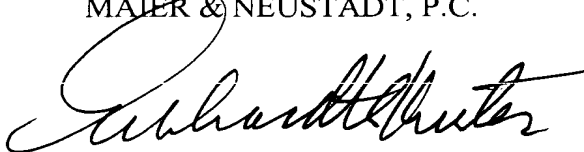
Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended by the present amendment. It is believed no new matter has been added.

This application is a continuation of parent application 09/404,546, filed on September 24, 1999.

Consequently, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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